WITK

The Spark Gap

November 1981

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Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

FLEA MARKET

Our 1981 flea market held in the Wellesley High School parking lot on Saturday, October 10 was a much bigger success than last year. We had over 250 paid admissions, and with the admission at $1.00 per buyer or seller, the flea market was very popular with the sellers. Most other flea markets charge more for sellers (some of the fees are becoming outrageous) but it was felt that a low admission would contribute to the overall success of the day and that seems to have come true.

We had a good crew of club members on hand and since there is relatively little to do, expecially when compared with our auction, it was a nice easy day for all.

The club treasury benefitted nicely from this effort, and it you were not there you missed a good flea market. □

ACTIVITIES

On the weekend of October 3 and 4 as part of the Wellesley Centennial celebration, the town held a flea market of their own along with other activities at the Hunnewell field on Route 16. We provided three operators to help communicate between the first aid station manned by the Red Cross, the police, and the organizers. Fortunately, our help was not needed for any emergencies but we were there just in case.

Taking part were C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, Nels Anderson, K1UR, and Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, who did the coordinating with the officials.

This and other similar events provide a good chance for our club to get exposure in the town where it is based. It is unfortunate, however, when none of the participants from the club are Wellesley residents even though a large number do belong to the club.

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The Wellesley Amateur Radio Society had another opportunity to be of service to the town of Wellesley during the centennial Veterans Parade held on Sunday, October 18. Our help was much more valuable during this event as communications was needed between the various officials while the start of the parade is getting set up. It's not as easy to get all the marchers set up in order as it looks!

At the start we had four people, C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, Erik Thoresen, K1OGF, Nels Anderson, K1UR, and Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, providing communications for the officials getting things set up. After the parade start, K1UR moved to the reviewing stand and Skid Schermerhorn, W1TTY, and Greg Livingston, WA1EHV, took up positions along the parade route.

This event came off quite successfully as it has for the past several years and hopefully we will be able to provide like service in the future. □

EVENTS

We will have a very special program for our second meeting in November. We will be having a tour of the Channel 5 television studios in Needham. Instead of our normal Thursday meeting, please note that the tour will be on **Monday**, November 16. Please meet in the lobby of the WCVB studios just off the Route 128 Highland Street west exit, behind Muzi Ford, at 7:00 pm. □

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

November 5, 1981 at 7:30 pm

November 16, 1981 at 7:00 pm

Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.

'YL' Rumblings

by Elise White
--Denver Radio Club via ARNS

A ham swapfest is a unique combination of brilliance and bull.

Remember, one man's treasure is another man's junk. I believe that a definition of junk would be in order. Junk is something belonging to the wife and/or a considered inferior piece of equipment belonging to someone else. If an identical piece of equipment resides in said individual's shack relegated to the storage area and not in use, it is a valuable piece of gear, but is: too large, too heavy, wrong color, solid state, not solid state, too small, or the wife has laid down the law because the overflow has wandered into the hall, bedroom or living room.

With wails of mourning and crocodile tears, each object is lovingly handled, evaluated and consigned to the future hamfest box, rather than the trash barrel where it belongs.

The great day arrives and said ham excitedly loads his beloved belongings into the auto, drives several miles, rents a table, lays out his treasures and prepares to part with his belongings for a specified number of green stamps.

They will stand in awe, listening to a fellow ham extol the merits of his particular piece of junk and even dig up real money for it while an identical piece is stashed under the buyer's table. They will buy a boat anchor after listening to a long list of parts it contains, fully convinced that a proposed do-it-yourself project can be built for pennies from said object. They will gloat over their jewel until they get home and examine it and recognize it as a previously owned treasure of two hamfests back. By the time they get around to salvaging all that good stuff, QST or Ham Radio has come out with another brain storm schematic and none of the parts match.

One beam, extensively traveled and a veteran of many swapfests ended up at the original owner's QTH. A wind and hail storm ended its adventures, thank goodness!

Any wife rejoicing at seeing the floor in the ham shack, no longer banging her shins on misplaced gear, and laboring under the misapprehension that this is the way it will remain is a dreamer. She may have gotten rid of one truckload, but I'll bet money she gets two or more truckloads back.

Oh well, it keeps them off the streets, out of bars and they are much too excited in acquiring new toys to chase women. □

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Nr 99, dated September 24, 1981:

The FCC has issued a news release which lists its proposals for amending the Communications Act. Among those proposals which are of interest to radio Amateurs are the addition of a subsection to provide a statutory basis for the use of Amateur volunteers for examination preparation, examination administration, and monitoring. The Commission also plans to ask Congress for authority to give the FCC the option of relaxing or eliminating regulation of operators in radio control and citizens band radio services, authority to license any class of station other than a broadcasting station for a term of 10 years, and an amendment to the secrecy provisions in section 605 to facilitate the Commission's use of volunteer monitors. Details will appear in QST.

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Nr 100, dated September 24, 1981:

The FCC has affirmed its ruling with regard to the retransmission of Amateur signals by repeater stations. As long as the user station is authorized on the frequency on which he is transmitting, the fact that the repeater station retransmits his signal to a frequency authorized to both higher and lower operator classes is of no consequence. For example, a Technician Class operator may have his signals retransmitted by a repeater, auxiliary or space station to the ten meter band segment where he ordinarily would not be permitted to operate. Th-

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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, F.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SENT THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS $8. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181

Commission affirmed its ruling by dismissing a petition filed by Michael S. Bilow, of Cranston, R.I.

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Nr 101, dated September 25, 1981:

Attention recent upgrades. If your interim permit is nearing expiration and your new license has not yet arrived, FCC will consider requests for extensions of time. Send a photocopy of your permit along with your request to FCC, Box 441, Gettysburg, PA 17325, ATTN Cheryl Dunlap.

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Nr 103, dated September 25, 1981:

S-929, Senator Goldwater's bill which would give the FCC authority to establish minimum radio frequency rejection standards for electronic equipment, has been approved and passed by the U.S. Senate. Other features of the bill include granting the FCC the authority to use volunteer licensed Amateur Radio operators for the purpose of preparing and administering Amateur exams for entry level Amateur licenses. S-929 would also exempt Amateur Radio transmissions from the secrecy provisions of Section 605 of the Communications Act, and would change the license term of an Amateur license from 5 to 10 years. Approval of the House of Representatives is still needed.

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Nr 106, dated October 1, 1981:

The FCC has approved the proposal in Docket 80-136 to delete the requirement that Amateurs identify the station with which they are in contact, except in cases where international third party traffic is involved. This action will be effective 30 days following publication in the Federal Register. W1AW will announce the specific effective date. In other matters, the Commission decided to release as a notice of proposed rulemaking ARRL petition 3788 requesting additional authorization for digital techniques and experimentation. The Commission denied a petition for reconsideration filed by the Southern California Repeater and Remote Base Association, SCRRBA, in the matter of power restrictions near certain military installations. The Commission also approved the release of a Fourth Notice of Inquiry in the WARC final acts implementation Docket affecting allocations between 40.5 and 400 GHz. Details to follow in QST. □

Minutes

Meeting of October 1, 1981:

The meeting was opened at 7:40 pm by President David Curry, K1TK, with 15 present.

The treasurer's report was read.

The secretary's report was read.

Planning for the flea market on October 10 was done.

It was announced that the picnic with the Middlesex ARC has been moved to Sunday October 11.

Volunteers for the October 18 Veterans Parade were sought.

It was decided to tentatively move the November 19 meeting to November 18 when a tour of the Channel 5 studios would take place.

The progress of initial Natick Mall Message Fair planning was reported on.

The meeting closed at 8:08 pm. □

ELECTRONICS EXCHANGE

For Sale: VHF Quagi. Two meter FM antenna, 13.0 dBd gain. Eight elements. High Strength, light weight construction. Stainless steel directors. Completely assembled.
Also: Two meter walkie. A Kenwood TR 2400, fully synthesized. Ten memories, 143.900 to 148.495 coverage. Complete with batteries, wall charger, speaker-microphone, case, carton, and manuals. All absolutely mint condition. Contact Bill, N1ADY, 384-8056.
For Sale: Heath Station. SB-301 receiver with 6 meter converter, 2 meter converter, manuals, two spares of each tube. SB-401 transmitter with complete crystal pack, matching microphone, manuals, two spares of each tube. Completely tuned in the past month, used on skeds every night, in excellent condition. Sold only as a package for $500.00 firm. Reason for selling--bought a new station. Contact Marv, W1LAV, 443-2236 evenings. □

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Nr 112, dated October 7, 1981:
Starting October 23, 1981, U.S. Amateurs will no longer be required to give the callsign of the station with which they are in contact unless international third party traffic is being handled. Furthermore, there will no longer be a requirement to identify your station at the beginning of a transmission, so long as you identify your station at the end of the transmission or series of transmissions and at least once each ten minutes during the communication.

FROM THE MAILBAG

Ted Levin, WB1CFC, sends his greetings from Delray Beach, Florida, and says he hopes to get up north in the future.

Auctions/Flea Markets

November 21: Honeywell auction, held at the Honeywell facility, 300 Concord Road, Billerica, Mass. (take a left off the Concord Road exit from Rt. 3). Check in starts at 10:00 am, and the auction starts at 11:00 am. □

hr REPORT

OSCAR 9 is up! The English Amateur built UoSAT spacecraft was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base at 1127Z on October 5 in an essentially perfect launch.

A command problem with the new bird became apparent shortly after launch. The 145.825 MHz beacon was commanded on without difficulty but it carried no telemetry, and attempts at further commands were not successful. AMSAT teams from both England and the U.S. are attempting to resolve the problem.

hr Report, October 9, 1981

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
David Curry, K1TK, 756-5325
VICE PRESIDENT:
Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, 762-5074
TREASURER:
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091
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Nels Anderson, K1UR, 323-5029
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David Kent, N2AWG, 756-5325